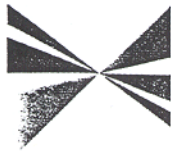


January 14, 1998

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA



**ASSOCIATION OF
GOVERNMENTS**

Main Office

818 West Seventh Street

12th Floor

Los Angeles, California

90017-3435

t (213) 236-1800

f (213) 236-1825

www.scag.ca.gov

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Tom Mullen, Riverside County

Ventura County Transportation Commissioners:
Bill Davis, Santa Valley

Ms. Kimberly Weinstein
Caltrans District 11
2829 Juan Street
San Diego, CA 92186

Dear Ms. Weinstein:

On November 29, 1993, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) issued final guidance on new regulations stemming from the passage of the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991 (ISTEA). One important requirement of the ISTEA is the Major Investment Study (MIS). This requirement mandates that a transportation alternatives study be prepared for all major transportation investments that could potentially involve federal funds. Projects that fall into this category are usually capacity adding transit and/or highway improvements.

The primary components of an MIS are (1) analysis of alternatives, (2) public involvement, and (3) consultation among the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)-SCAG, transit operators, Caltrans, FHWA, and FTA on the proposed investment.

The range of alternatives studied in the State Route 78/111 Brawley Bypass Major Investment Study are sufficient to meet the requirements of the federal MIS guidelines. A substantial public involvement process was utilized in the planning process through the use of workshops and public hearings. Moreover, public agency involvement was facilitated through numerous meetings, MIS Peer Review Group Meetings, and phone conversations.

On December 17th 1998, the *Major Investment Studies Peer Review Group* met and determined that the State Route 78/111 Brawley Bypass Major Investment Study meets the requirements established by SCAG and FTA/FHWA guidance. The State Route 78/111 Brawley Bypass MIS recommends the Highway Alternative as the transportation improvement in the Brawley Bypass corridor. The Highway Alternative, a four lane divided expressway is expected to reduce accidents, congestion, and time delays on SR-78 and SR-111, within the city of Brawley, and to provide for increased regional and international traffic due to the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

This correspondence documents the findings of the MIS Peer Review Group that State Route 78/111 Brawley Bypass Major Investment Study has met the requirements set forth in the Metropolitan Planning Rules, and is therefore granted this *Letter of Completion*. If you have any questions please contact me at (213) 236-1887.

Sincerely,

RICHARD SPICER

Manager of Transportation Planning

CC:

Sandra Balmir, FHWA/FTA Los Angeles Metro Office
Jim Gosnell, SCAG Planning & Policy Director
Joe Hull, Caltrans 11 SR-78/111 Project Manager
Hasan Ikhrata, SCAG Manager
Tim Jones, Imperial County Public Works Director
Arnold San Miguel, SCAG
Carl West, Caltrans 11 Deputy Director